

**REPORT ON SIXTH INWELLE CENTRE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
THEME STRATEGIES FOR LEVERAGING GIRLS TO SEEK CAREERS IN HIGH-
TECH COMPUTER FIELDS**

The program which started at about 11.45 am was well attended by men, women and youths. Also in attendance were the Inwelle Study and Resource Centre Inyi, Satellite Centre led by Mr. Vincent Mary Odo.

After the introduction of the chairman of the Occasion, Chief Ikem Nwabunike, represented by Bar B.S Njubigbo and other dignitaries. There was a brief history of the centre by the director and founder Inwelle Study and Resource Centre Professor Christiana Okechukwu. The theme of this sixth Inwelle Centre Symposium “Leveraging Girls to Seek Career in Hi-Tech Computer Fields” is designed to focus on the importance and benefits of fostering girls to seek careers in hi-tech computer fields, which will in turn help in promoting women’s ideas, experiences and talents in the society.

The first presenter Bar (Mrs.) Chizoba Chine the executive director of Greenfield Nig Ltd spoke on “Strategies for Leveraging Girls Seek Career in Hi-Tech Computer Fields”. In her speech she emphasized on the need for girls to embrace the changes in the globe. She listed commitment towards attaining higher education as one of the strategies which girls and women should adopt. She encouraged girls to be interested in science and technology especially Hi-Tech computer fields and not be scared away from subjects like mathematics. She also stressed on the need for girls to have ambition on what and where they want to be and not just exist without having any direction. Barr. Mrs. Chine also listed participation in sports as one of the strategies, as participation in sports gives one competitive spirit to face challenges and situations in the workforce and in the society. She thanked some men on the opportunity given to women to be a part of leadership, both in the family and in the society at large. She also listed mentorship as one of the strategies. Getting involve with a person who is more knowledgeable and more skilled in the area in which one is aspiring to go in life will leverage that person to a great length in achieving the person’s goal, she said. In conclusion she advised women and girls to network and join organizations that will improve their area of interest in life. She also said that it is of great importance that more women foundations, funds and donors focus on the area of interest in girls and women as it yields positive results.

The second presenter, Engr Patrick Onwe, Managing director of Micromedia Computer Ltd commended the director of the centre Prof. Christiana Okechukwu for the good work she has been doing for the youths and the society, saying that the future of our country is bright with her kind. His speech which was titled "I T For Profit" focuses on the importance of I.T, like web designing, oracle and e-businesses for youths, especially girls who want to be entrepreneurs. In his remarks, he said the workplace of the future is Information Technology and that it has made things like jobs available for people to be either employees or employers of labor. He encourages the girls to ignore the big name associated with I.T that scares some people away because acquiring computer skills and knowledge is within everybody's reach. He reminded the youths that I.T has come to stay in the society and that for one to fit into the world one has to be I.T literate. He said that I.T is now in hospitals, schools, government agencies, security agencies and virtually in every segment of the society.

Engr Onwe also listed career paths in which one can go into and become a specialist. They include computer networking, website designing and building, multimedia and even e-businesses. He said being a specialist in any area of the above listed, can actually enable someone to create wealth and employment for others too. He advised the girls not to be discouraged by the rush or competition that they might encounter in the workforce. He encouraged them to play more active role in I.T fields as whoever is literate and not computer literate is still considered to be an illiterate.

In his conclusion, he said that youths should create employment through their I.T skills rather than searching for jobs, as computer fields is a call for prosperity individually and nationally.

The excited youths that were eager to know and learn how to face the challenging world of I.T, asked questions on how to become specialists in different areas in I.T. They were answered satisfactorily by Engr. Patrick Onwe and Bar (Mrs.) Chine, who even gave instance on how she repairs her computer by herself, how she taught herself keyboarding and how she is even tinkering with web design in spite of her level in the society.

A representative of Inyi Vincent Mary Odo, thanked the director for commissioning the Inwelle centre at inyi community and for the smiles that she has put on peoples faces because of the centre. He said the centre has been running and that school children has been frequenting the centre ever

since it was commissioned. He also said the centre has gotten up to 100 books from other donors and that people still make pledges to the centre. He listed their needs and challenges so far,

1. Provision of office equipments like computers, photocopiers, printers and cameras.
2. More books on African cultures
3. Need to get affiliated with any higher institution around the town or abroad.

In response, Inwelle Centre director, Professor Christiana Okechukwu promised to give them two (2) more computers, if they are able to bring 20 girls to next 2013 August Boot Camp. She encourage girls to read books a lot to broaden their horizon, to aim high in life, so as not to end up living a life of regret outside their direction in life. She also said that in years to come, there will be no space for computer illiterates in the workforce. She said that girls should wake up and work hard or they will be left behind.

After the director's response the chairman Barrister Njubigbo advised the youths to always make themselves available for good developmental change rather than allowing themselves to be used and dumped by dubious politicians that claim to be doing the good work. He also advised them to always be conversant with latest IT in the society so as not to be left behind. He also thanked the director for running the centre, especially with her personal income while praying that God will reward her abundantly. In conclusion, he thanked the audience for being part of the program.

The closing prayer was said by Bar(Mrs.) Chine, who prayed for God's wisdom and knowledge for the director, and for the people, the zeal to work hard towards being a better youths and towards building a brighter future.

Juliet Igwe, Programme Director